A FULL AND TRUE
RELATION
OF AN
Engliſh Veſſel,

Newly taken by a Company of *French* Pyrats:

Who, after they had cruelly Robb'd her of all her Goods, kill'd part of her Men:

But being afterwards taken by the *Engliſh*, their Ships were ordered to be ſent Priſoners to *Wapping* Dock, and their Captains to be confin'd to the *Marſhalſees*; there at next Seſſions to be try'd for their Lives.

With Allowance.

London, Printed for *W. Harris*, next door to the *Turn-Stile* in the *Poſtern*.

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A full and true Account of an Engliſh *Veſſel which was lately robbed by* French *Pyrates.*

SO prone are the generality of Mankind to Impieties, that rather than not commit them, they will do it on an Element which ſeems as unnatural as incommodious for them to effect their horrid Villanies upon. Who would imagine that men who live in thoſe fleeting Houſes, called Ships, who are daily ſubject to be deſtroy'd by every blaſt or Hurricane, and every minute ride within three Inches of their liquid Grave, ſhould extract from the fear of mortality ſo much leiſure as ſerves them for the plotting their wicked Deſigns? Who would conceit they could have while to think on any thing but mortality? and ſince they lye liable to ſo many Accidents, which they have no ſecurity from, but that they may even the very next minute tumble them into Eternity? I ſay upon theſe Conſiderations who can imagine they ſhould ponder any thing but their latter Ends? or ought contemplate, but their everlaſting Happineſs or Miſery in the World to come? and yet we hear there are every day as many Outrages committed at Sea as Land: *Pyrat s* on the Ocean, like *Pick-pockets* near the Gallows, forfeit their lives even in the ſight of death; when every

Rock with its craggy Brow ſeems to ſcold them into Piety, and every Storm with majeſtick Eloquence to drive them into the ſecurity of an honeſt life.

Nor are we in Reaſon to blame that Monarchy or Government, to which theſe excurſive Sea-Robbers owe their Nativities, and conſequently ought to do their obedience and ſubjection, any more than we would cenſure a wholſom Law or Conſtitution, becauſe ſome incorrigible Malefactors will forfeit their lives in breaking it. Though *Maritime* Laws are in all Nations very ſevere, yet the main Ocean affords ſo large a Scene, that it is impoſſible for any Magiſtrate, though never ſo inſpective or circumſpect, to behold every Action that is done thereon. There is no Kingdom ſo vertuous but there are ſome vicious in it, nor no Conſtitutions ſo firm, as to conſtrain every one to Obedience; wherefore ſince we ſee by daily Experience, That there is no Nation free from Malefactors at Land, we may reaſonably imagine, none are clear from Pyrates at Sea; the nice diſtinction betwixt a *Pyrate* and *Thief*, being ſo little, that we may not altogether improperly term the firſt a *Sea-Thief*, and the latter a *Land-Pyrate*, eſpecially ſince the Laws of Nations run as ſtrict againſt the one as the other.

It being therefore granted, that every Country is incident too much to abound with theſe Caterpillers, I hope I ſhall be thought free from all Reflections, when I have related a Paſſage which lately happened. In the Chanel betwixt *Callis* and *Dover*, where a ſmall Pink of ours then riding, ken'd at a diſtance a Sail which made

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ſwiftly up towards her, which caus'd our Seamen to make all the Sail they could before her, hoping to gain ſome Port, or meet with ſome Aſſiſtance before they could be overtaken: But theſe hopes were altogether fruitleſs, for the Pyrate which purſued them was ſo ſwift of ſail, that in five or ſix Leagues ſhe overtook them; and after ſhe had thrown off her Chain, and lockt them faſt together, preſently boarded our little Pink, who though not man'd for ſuch an Aſſault made ſome Reſiſtance; in which Conteſt her Surgeon was ſlain by an accidental blow from one of the contrary Party, whom the *Engliſh* perceived by this time to be *French-men*, by whom being overpower'd with number, they were forced to ſee their Ship robbed without any hopes of redreſs.

After theſe cruel Pyrates had carried off all they thought valuable out of this little Pinck they left her to the mercileſs Ocean; but ſhe making all the ſail ſhe could towards the *Downs*, made her Complaint to Sir *John Holms*, Admiral, who was riding there at that time; and he according to the uſual Civility which he daily diſpences to all his injured Country-men; ordered forthwith the *Caſtle Frigot* and the *Soldody*, to go a cruiſing for the aforeſaid *French* Pyrates; and not only ſo, but hearing that there were others abroad, which uſed the ſame cruel, illegal,

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and wicked employment, gave the Commanders of thoſe Ships Orders to bring in not only any that were to be ſuſpected for Pyrates, but any Privateer belonging to the *French*. Whereupon it was their fortune to light upon two little *French* Veſſels, which they ſuſpected to be concerned in the aforeſaid Pyracy, or robbing the *Engliſh* Pinck: One of theſe which was the leſſer of them had about 50 men in her; and the other about ſeventy or eighty.

Both theſe Veſſels were after ſome ſmall Reſiſtance taken by the *Engliſh*, and having no good Commiſſions to ſhew for their ſailing, were on ſuſpicion of being Pyrates brought to the *Downs* before the Right Honourable Sir *John Holms*, who upon mature Examination, thought fit to ſend up both their Veſſels into the River, where they now lye over againſt *Wapping* Stairs; and after he had heard the Captains of both Ships what they could ſay in their own defence, thought fit likewiſe to order them to be ſent to the *Marſhalſees*, there to have their Tryals according to Law in thoſe Caſes: Which the Reader, I ſuppoſe, may hear at the Seſſions held there about five weeks hence, as I remember beginning the Twelfth day of *Auguſt* next.

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Any one who will take ſo much pains as to go as far as the *Marſhalſees* in *Southwark* may ſee theſe two Captains, being both very brisk men to look on, and the one of them very gallant; but, if I were capable of gueſſing a Mans mind by his Countenance, I ſhould be perſwaded they are ſomewhat diſcontented, whether by reaſon of their Confinement, or Guilt, I am not able to reſolve.

I ſuppoſe it is in the hubbubs of War, as at the lamentable exigent of a great Fire, where many Raſcally Fellows, who have no Habitations of their own to gratifie the Ravenous Appetite of thoſe devouring Flames, forget all Humanity, and under pretence of helping their diſtreſſed Brethren, by carrying away and ſecuring to themſelves their Neighbours Goods, become a greater Judgment, than thoſe Flames they would be thought to oppoſe.

How eaſie is it for a baſe ſpirited Seaman, to be guilty of reſembling ſuch Knavery? who having either by direct, or indirect means, made himſelf Maſter of a convenient Veſſel, calls to his Aſſiſtance a Company of Vagabonds, Men of deſperate reſolutions and fortunes like himſelf, and with theſe under pretences of oppoſing his Countrys Enemies, falls promiſcuouſly either upon them or her Friends, not ſpairing upon occaſion,

caſion the Merchant-men of his own Nation, if he light on them in a place convenient to ſecure their *Cargo* to his own ſecular uſe. Thus are the Leagues and Contracts of Princes often in danger to be unrivited, by a company of impious wretches, whoſe Souls are as narrow as their Fortunes, and their Births if it were poſſible more abject than either.

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